

P E T I T I O N .

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Maryland :

The memorial of James Hunter and Thomas G. Harris, respectfully represents, that in the month of September 1845, a contract was made by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, with Walter Gwynn, William B. Thompson, James Hunter, and Walter Cunningham, to complete the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland ; that the said company agreed to pay the said contractors sixteen hundred and twenty five thousand dollars (\$1,625,000) in bonds authorised by the act of assembly passed at December session 1844, chapter 281, to be issued for that purpose by the President and Directors of said company; that the said work was commenced in November 1845 ; that the contractors being disappointed in effecting a sale of the bonds it was suspended in June 1846 ; that soon after the commencement of the work Walter Cunningham with the consent of the other parties ; retired from the contract and in the month of June 1846, your memorialist Thos. G. Harris became a partner with like consent in place of Walter Gwynn, and assumed the duties of said Gwynn under said contract.

Your memorialists beg leave to state that from the period above named to the month of September 1847, they were unremittingly engaged in efforts to effect a sale of the bonds, and that having succeeded in obtaining a guaranty of a portion of the bonds by the State of Virginia through the exertions of the undersigned before the Legislature of that State, and from the cities of Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, they finally succeeded by the assistance of the Honorable John Davis, the Honorable Nathan Hale and Horatio Allen, Esq., in effecting an arrangement whereby they raised a sum of money from the sale of the bonds, which enabled them to resume the work in the month of November 1847. They beg leave to state that at the time they believed the sums then secured from the sale of the bonds sufficient for the purpose of completing said canal, but in consequence of increased expenses from various causes, particularly from the delay of the work for two years, by which they lost several valuable contracts for portions of the work and were subjected to damages on others, from the impracticability of obtaining materials of a suitable description without bringing them from a greater distance than was anticipated, and from the difficulty in raising the necessary funds,